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AVILA COLLEGE magazine

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TEN GOOD YEARS FOR THE COLLEGE

Avila will mark ten years on the Wornall campus next January. A report from Sister Olive Louise, president, suggests that Avila will stride into the seventies on the strength of some excellent programs begun as early as the 40's on the old campus.

Avila's good reputation stems largely from professional programs such as those in nursing and education, and programs to serve the community remain strong in Avila's plans and projections for the next ten years. To supplement Kansas City, Missouri's only B.A. in Nursing, Special Education and Social Work — and the only Montessori Internationale B.A. degree in the country — Avila will reactivate the Medical Technology program and greatly expand the existing Business program. The Avila theatre department has become one of the most exciting and dynamic professional training grounds for actors in the U.S. (see article this issue.) And slated for fall 1972 is an ambitious Evening Division program.

"Avila is not," Sister Olive Louise notes, "intent on new programs; we are intent on maximizing educational opportunities in the enrichment of an urban setting efficiently, economically, and expertly." And so, to the next ten year plan, with an eye toward success equal to that of the first ten on Wornall Road.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS? TOUCH BASE HERE

The Kansas City chapter of the Avila Alumni Association is going strong but we are no longer sure of existing chapters elsewhere. As we often get requests for names of alums in a given area, offers to entertain them, and so on, we would like any of you who meet or would like to meet with other Avila alums in your area to write us so that we may publish your name in the Avila College Magazine as a contact in your area. That way you can find each other and keep in touch with college friends as well as with the college.

PLANNING THE BIG ONE: John O'Hern (r) often hosts Avila-related meetings at his advertising agency office on Broadway. Here he and Sister Olive Louise confer with Ed Thornhill at a February conclave to work out the myriad details of the 56th annual Avila Birthday Party. Mr. Thornhill is chairman of this year's celebration; both he and Mr. O'Hern are members of Avila's Board of Counselors.

YOU CAN COME HOME AGAIN

April 19 has been reserved for Avila alumni who would like to participate in classes and seminars designed especially for them by the Avila faculty. Details about the "Campus Revisited" program will be sent you by the alumni association; participating instructors include Sisters Paul Joseph, chemistry; Judith Schloegel, special education; Rosemary Flanigan, philosophy; Miss Elizabeth Norris, social work; and Sister Audrey Olson, women's studies in history, Sister Germaine will offer French, and Sister Collette Marie, art. Send in your registration form or call 942-3204 for more information — contact Donna Neuman.

The Avila Theatre faculty: James Assad, Artistic Director; Sister Felice Helmes, Chairman of the Fine Arts division; and Ron Coles, Technical Director. Their genius, dedication and hard work have brought the Avila Actors' Laboratory to unprecedented success and great future promise. Watch them.

FEATURING THE FACULTY

A college is known by the faculty it keeps. Through the years Avila has been privileged to attract and sustain a body of teaching professionals, religious and lay, whose excellence defines the reputation of a degree from Avila. Recognizing the great value of this superior faculty, the editors of the Avila College Magazine take pride in this feature: "Who's Teaching It?" so called because that is the first question the student asks, and because the answer so often describes the nature of the course better than does the course title.

Sister Felice Helmes, M.A. Catholic University, Professor of Speech and Theatre, and head of Avila's Fine Arts division, is a very gentle determined lady who has brough the theatre department into the 70's with a bang. No whimpering.

She has not only been a member of the Fine Arts department since 1948; for most of those 24 years she has been the theatre department. "We didn't talk about heads of departments in the old days," she smiles; "you did what needed to be done."

Today she is head of one of the goingest departments on campus, comprised of herself, James Assad, Artistic Director; Ron Coles, Technical Director; and Nancie Raether, Dance Director of the Avila Speech and Theatre Department.

The Avila Actors' Laboratory Theatre, formed in 1970, has acted with energy and initiative to (1) build their own theatre from the concrete basement floor of O'Rielly up, (2) perform a 30-day repertory season this fall, and (3) achieve such excellence as has drawn national attention to the Avila campus. Among the achievements of the four-faculty member department and their 15 loyal majors is a recommendation for the coveted American College Theatre Festival in Washington, D.C. in the spring, and the securing of a U.S.O. tour to be taken during the winter Interim next year. Through all the building of the department, one special project has held Sister Felice's attention — the annual Children's Play.

The first performance in 1948, held in the "round building" at St. Teresa's old campus, starred Mary Jean Burke Lynch as Cinderella, and brought school children from Catholic schools all over the city to fill the 500-seat auditorium. An interesting transition in audience make-up for the annual play perhaps reflects the transition in the church and in the society it serves — for while in the early years the audiences were made up almost exclusively of children from parochial schoolrooms, they evolved into groups from the community — girl scout troops, birthday parties, mothers bringing all the kids on the block; and finally today, the weekend performances of the children's play draws individuals and families from throughout the Kansas City community, along with various groups of children.

Of the "adult audience" plays she has done, Sister Felice favors "Arms and the Man," "The Importance of Being Earnest," and Edward Albee's "A Delicate Balance," which had its Kansas City premiere under her direction.

When she moved her 15-year-old department to the new campus in 1963, Sister Felice found herself in the somewhat awkward position of being a director without a theatre o

YOUR BASIC BETTER-THAN-AVERAGE THEATRE KIDS: Avila student actors who have received some of the highest recognition in the nation's college theatre circles: Gus Geiger, Terry Bickell, Mike LaGue, Susan Hornbeck and Don Carney. Performers in "Adaptation" and "Next," they went to the regional American College Theatre Festival at St. Louis and gained recommendation for the national event in April. Unphotographed: Buddy Zimmer, fellow cast member (an professional actor) who teaches at Bishop Miege high school. Mr. LaGue and Mr. Carney took part in the "Best Actor" competition, and Miss Hornbeck received a special "Citation of Excellence" for her performance in "Adaptation."

We challenge our readers to correctly identify the name and date of the production and the people of an early Children's Theatre cast. Send entries to the Alumni Activities Office no later than April 25, 1972.

stage. The kids sat on the floor then, but they crowded in, enjoyed themselves, and the show went on with the children's plays the community had come to expect of Avila.

As for the "new" department with all the high-powered success, Sister Felice regards it as the not unnatural outcome of the work of her talented and dedicated co-faculty members. "Mr. Assad and Mr. Coles are," she succinctly sums it up, "the answers to my prayers."

It is timely that the department has come into such renown this year, for fall of 1972 marks the groundbreaking for the construction of the Goppert Theatre, which will give the Avila theatre students a crack at performing on a large stage for a large audience, as well as in the 175-seat intimate experimental theatre.

Sister Felice looks forward now to easing herself out of the picture, to leave in place of a one-woman department one of the best professional training grounds for young theatre people in the nation. She speaks of the quiet of retirement in a few years, but it is hard to imaging that this gentle dynamo will take to inactivity, and one cannot help anticipating that she will keep up the children's plays that have delighted Kansas City audiences under her direction for nearly a quarter of a century.

This year's children's play, "Rumpelstiltskin" will be given on March 18 and 19, 25 and 26, at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. each day in O'Rielly Theatre on the campus. Tickets are 75 cents and all seats may be reserved through 942-3230.

STUDENT REFERRAL CARD

Refer a good student to a good school!

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YEAR OF H.S. GRADUATION _____

Thank you!
Director of Admissions
119th at Wornall Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64145

ALUMNI NOTES

'60 Sister Mary Anne Hain recently received the 1971 Federal Nursing Service Award given annually by the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States to a nurse member of the Federal medical service. She was cited for outstanding accomplishments in the advancement of professional nursing, notably for her essay, "The Challenge of Hansen's Disease: Patient Understanding of Sulfone Therapy." Sister Hain is director of the Carville, Louisiana Public Health Service Hospital nursing department.

'62 Patricia Durrant Schuller sends greetings to "any teachers I know that may still be there." She and husband Frank have been much transferred with his company, but are now back in Illinois. Their children are Frank, 8, Michael, 7, John, 5, and Theresa, 3. Patricia will go to the University of Illinois with plans to teach next year. She is active in the League of Women voters and has a Cub Scout Den.

'67 Mrs. James (Helen) Haglund was awarded a master of Arts degree in Education by the University of Missouri at Kansas City in December.

'68 Louise Iennaccaro Young heads the Social Service department at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City.

'69 Mary Ann Schloup is engaged in social service at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Kansas City.

'69 Toni Lutz, mathematics major, was recently promoted to the Programming and Systems department at Mobil Oil Corporation.

BIRTHS

CLASS '54

Mr. and Mrs. Neil E. Pritchard (Patricia Day,) a son, David Edward Robert, on December 15 in Marquette, Michigan.

CLASS '60

Mr. and Mrs. Jules Edward De Wilde (Gerry Burnett,) a son, Dennis Patrick (who was welcomed home by his three brothers David, Danny, and Donald,) on November 3 in Louisville, Kentucky.

CLASS '65

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene C. Heath (Susan Jordan,) a son, Peter Jordan, on February 2 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh F. Downey (Martha Rose Meagher,) a daughter, Keren Rose, in Keren, Ethiopia, on February 16.

CLASS '67

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hageman (Linda Davin,) a son, Brian James, on February 13 in Kansas City, Missouri.

CLASS '68

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Veerkamp (Mary Fran Pfeffer,) a son, Brandon Thomas, on January 30 in Savannah, Georgia.

CLASS '69

Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson (Mary Terese Frank,) a daughter, Christine Rose, on January 18 in Denver, Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Glennon Donald Jamboretz (Kathy Paradoski,) a daughter, Kathryn Allison, on February 14 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas Raab (Jeaneane Jones,) a daughter, Mary Bridget, on January 29 in Kansas City, Missouri.

WEDDINGS

CLASS '61

Barbara Jean Rush, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Rush, to James Joseph Frawley on February 19 at Guardian Angels Church, Kansas City, Missouri.

CLASS '70

Teresita Madrigal, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel A. Madrigal, to Oscar Ferraro on March 4 at Our Lady of Fatima Church, San Jose, Costa Rica.

DEATHS

CLASS '35

Mr. Joseph F. Kessler, father of Mrs. Robert A. Caldwell (Jeanne Kessler) and grandfather of Terence Caldwell '73, on February 22 in Kansas City, Missouri.

CLASS '37

Mr. James C. Neenan, father of Mrs. Joseph A. Mermis, Jr. (Dorothy Neenan,) Mrs. William E. Clarkson (Janice Neenan '46,) and the late Mrs. Frank Andrews (Jean Clair Neenan '44,) and father-in-law of Mrs. James P. Neenan (Helen Dierks '43) and Mrs. Charles Brenneke (Shirley Gier '37,) on February 1 in Columbia, Missouri.

CLASS '55

Mrs. George Buer (Nadine Carothers) on February 2 at Hays, Kansas.

CLASS '60

Mrs. Bertha Wirthman Kilker, mother-in-law of Mrs. Robert L. Kilker, Jr. (Rosemary Cannon,) on February 8 in Kansas City, Missouri.

CLASS '60

Mr. Vincent A. Wiesner, father of Mrs. Richard D. Frizell (Barbara Wiesner,) on February 25 in Kansas City, Missouri.